23-25 Bridge Street, Caernarfon

Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

GAT Project No. 1955
Report No. 716
March 2008

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT

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Prepared for Pritchard Bond Architects

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Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
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23-25 BRIDGE STREET, CAERNARFON

Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief (G1955)

Summary

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and watching brief has been conducted during renovation work at 23-25 Bridge Street, Caernarfon.

Present evidence suggests the plot was developed in the early nineteenth century, by building alongside a medieval bridge which dammed the River Cadnant. The plots had been built on by 1834, where they are shown on John Wood's map of Caernarfon. The buildings were subsequently remodelled and extended during the succeeding decades and the Ordnance Survey Town Plan from 1889 shows the property outlines in a very similar fashion to the present day. The two properties remained as separate premises until the twentieth century.

During the renovation works, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust excavated two trial holes within the lower basement level of 23 Bridge Street, and maintained a watching brief during removal of floor deposits. This work revealed the existence of the face of a strong stone wall faced with sand stone blocks, which is interpreted as a medieval wall, and possibly part of the medieval bridge. A second, but later, wall running at right-angles to the first, has been interpreted as a possible mill leat.

Parts of no. 21, and a surviving cross-wall in no. 23, have been interpreted as the remains of the stone buildings shown on Wood's map of 1834. No. 23 was rebuilt in the later 19th century, and no. 21 was extended to the west at the same time. A large brick built culvert, now dry, and lying within the basement of no. 23, is interpreted as a culvert that carried the water from the mill pond to the sea, and it is thought to lie on the same alignment as an earlier mill leat, that served a mill here between the late 17th century and early 19th century.

A series of slate-built culverts, or drains, were laid in the floor of the late 19th century rebuild of no. 23.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked by Pritchard Bond Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 23-25 Bridge Street, Caernarfon (SH47986277; Figure 01), to observe the renovation of the basement/lower basement level at No. 23 (Figure 02). The basement/lower basement levels had been "gutted" prior to arrival and the modern floor surface of the lower basement level had been removed, exposing a compacted levelling layer. The evaluation phase included the excavation of trial pits into the levelling layer, against both the north and south facing internal elevations. The evaluation phase was followed by excavation of features found within the trial pits. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken during the remaining ground works prior to the construction of a new floor surface. The surrounding elevations were also inspected and any structural details of note were recorded.

The structures are Grade II Listed (Cadw Reference Number: 4162) and are described in the listing as a "well-detailed late C19 pair of shops, retaining external and internal detail that contribute to the distinctive late C19 commercial character of Bangor Street, Bridge Street and Eastgate Street".

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust would like to thank the developers, Lle Cyf; the architects, Stephen Bond for Pritchard Bond Architects; and Steve Owen, the site agent, for all their help during the project. The project was carried out by John Roberts on behalf of the Trust, with help from Tanya Berks and Rob Evans. Andrew Davidson was the project manager for the Trust.

2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

The basic requirement was for an evaluation, excavation and watching brief of the proposed area, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of

archaeological potential identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the construction work on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for filling these requirements were as follows:

- Evaluation
- Excavation
- Watching brief
- Report

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The fieldwork was undertaken between 9th August and 14th of September 2007.

The aim of the evaluation and subsequent excavation was to investigate the ground surface of the lower basement level prior to its reduction in an attempt to investigate any below ground deposits indicative of earlier activity. The lower basement and basement level elevations were also inspected for any evidence of architectural phasing indicative of earlier structural activity.

The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the renovation of the basement/lower basement level. This involved the removal of all modern fittings, including the floor surface and the excavation of a ducting trench (to a depth of 500mm). All groundworks were conducted by hand and/or by a 1.5 tonne 360° tracked excavator.

4 TOPOGRAPHY

23-25 Bridge Street is located towards the northern end of Caernarfon town, between the central square (*Y Maes*) and Bangor Road. The two properties comprise five storey structures with modern rear extensions. The two structures had been used as a single commercial premise prior to the renovation work.

They lie on the west side of Bridge Street, and are three storeys high facing the street, but five storeys high at the rear. Bridge Street is so called because it formed a bridge and dam to the River Cadnant, which was contained within a pool on the east side of the street. Water from the pool passed through the bridge, and was used to drive mill wheels on the lower side, before exiting out to sea. The pool was subsequently filled in, and a carpark now occupies its site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Archaeological and historical background

Roman Caernarfon

The Romans chose the summit of the ridge between the Cadnant and the Seiont to build their fort of Segontium at the pivotal point between the northern and western coast roads (Casey and Davies 1993). Established about 77AD, it continued in occupation certainly until 383 when Magnus Maximus withdrew much of the army, and probably until 393, when troops were removed to control the revolt of Eugenius in Gaul. Two hundred metres west of the auxiliary fort lies a second Roman fortification, usually called Hen Waliau. This was a rectangular enclosure 70m by 50m lying at the top of a steep scarp above the Seiont. The west side is now gone, having been heavily robbed out, though the line of this wall has been found by excavation. The function and date of this fort is still uncertain, though the evidence suggests a late 4th century structure, possibly used as a storage compound. Access down the slope top the Seiont would therefore have been important, and this was probably at the north-west corner of the fort where there is a break in the steep slope.

Medieval and later Caernarfon

Following the withdrawal of Roman troops, the initial focus of settlement at Caernarfon appears to have shifted inland of the fort, around the parish church of Llanbeblig, though the location of the church may have been determined by the existence of a Roman cemetery that lay alongside the road

outside the fort gate, and not associated with any settlement. When the Normans attempted to gain a foothold in the area in 1090 they chose a site below the fort and alongside the Strait on which to build their motte and bailey castle. A Welsh settlement may well have formerly existed here, and influenced the siting of the motte. A settlement in this area was destroyed after the Edwardian conquest of 1282-3 to make way for the construction of the new castle. It was built around the existing motte, and the new town occupied a level plateau to the north on land that was virtually an island, formed by the river Seiont, the Menai Strait and the river Cadnant. The town laid out on a grid pattern and was enclosed by walls. The chief street of the town was the High Street that crossed the town from east to west, between the two principal exits from within the walls. Porth y Aur was the seaward exit to the west, and Porth Mawr, or the East Gate, built in stone in 1301-2, led out to the short Eastgate Street, giving it its name (RCAHMW 1960, 150). At the eastern end of Eastgate Street, beyond the *Oatmeal Market* of Speed's map of 1610 (Figure 06), which was later known as Turf Square, and running north-south, lies Bridge Street. Prior to the construction of the bridge there was probably an escarpment or ridge at this point (Evans 1941). The name Bridge Street derives its name from a bridge that used to span the river Cadnant here, and remained in use until the 19th century, and now possibly lying under the present street (*ibid.*). One arch still visible in 1960 beneath the junction of Bridge Street and Pool Hill (RCAHMW 1960, 158), and medieval masonry was identified in 1996 (Davidson and Gwyn 1996, 10). This bridge can be seen on Speed's map of 1610 as an arched structure, and also on the Vaynol estate map of 1777 (Figure 07). It dammed the river Cadnant creating a mill pool to east (Jones 1889, 85). The first reference to the mill pool occurs in the Exchequer Accounts for 1285, which record the payment of wages totalling £121 12s. 5d for its construction (Boyle 1989, 2). This pool is believed to have become polluted in post medieval times, creating a great nuisance to the town, and was also liable to flood (Hyde Hall 1811, 187). The pool was drained in the middle of the 19th century by dumping the town rubbish on either side of the river Cadnant (Evans 1973, 71). During 1956 deep foundations were dug on the site of the mill pool for the foundations of shops fronting the east side of Bridge Street, but no masonry remains were found (RCAHMW 1960, 158), also excavations carried out in 1989 within the mill pool revealed 6m of silts but no revetments or other structures (Boyle 1989, 6). On the town side of the bridge a grist mill was situated, receiving its power through a large water wheel in the Cadnant, whose building survived into the 19th century, being destroyed during the construction of the Caernarfon-Afonwen railway (*ibid*., 3). Bridge Street is shown fully built up by 1834 (Wood's map), and some of the buildings at the north end of the street are late 18th century in appearance, though the remainder appear to have been rebuilt in the 19th century.

23-25 Bridge Street

Bridge Street is so named because of the earth dam that held back the waters of the River Cadnant. A road ran across the dam, and several arches carried the water through. Speed's map of 1610 shows three channels, of which the southern channel, and possibly the northern channel, drove a mill water wheel. There are no apparent structures on this map at the location of 23-25 Bridge Street, except for the bridge itself (Figure 06).

The GAS XM/Maps/1396 (nd.) Llanfair and Brynodol MSS Map of Caernarfon (specific date unknown but early to mid seventeenth century; fig 07), shows that prior to the construction of the houses lining the west side of the bridge, development was limited to the bridge and a mill below, which is driven by the central channel. It is not known if this channel is in the same location as the central channel shown on Speed's map, but on this map it is positioned in the north half of the bridge. The north and south channels are also shown, issuing between buttresses, and feeding into the same channel before issuing out to sea. The central channel shown on the map is located on or very close to the south wall of 23 Bridge Street.

The Vaynol MSS Map of Caernarfon 1777 shows the north and south channel passing from the pool through the bridge, but no central channel, and no mill. However, this might be because Vaynol owned no buildings here, and so are simply not indicated on the map.

John Wood's map of Caernarfon, 1834, shows buildings lining nearly all of Bridge Street, which would confirm they are of late 18th/early 19th century in origin, with later rebuilding. The pool on the east side of the bridge is still extant, but has been reduced in size by the encroachment of building development, particularly along the north side (the pool was subsequently drained in the mid-19th century). There are buildings at the location of 23-25 Bridge Street, but with a gap between two blocks, and an extension of the pond appears to pass through the bridge at this point, implying a culvert carried the outflow of

the pond between these two buildings. Other buildings below those fronting Bridge Street may represent the mill shown on the Llanfair and Brynodol Estate map. The buildings are narrower than the current properties, suggesting that they were subsequently extended to the west, or rebuilt (see conclusions in section 6 below). The shop front and interior are, in style, late 19th century, and this may be the date of the rebuilding of No's 23 and 25.

The Ordnance Survey 1:500 Scale Town Plan from 1889 shows the property outlines in a very similar fashion to the present day (Figure 10), suggesting any rebuilding had been completed by that date. The gap between the two blocks on John Wood's map had been infilled by this time. In 1895 No 23 was occupied by a draper and No 25 by the Welsh Tobacco Company.

The structures comprise a pair of shops with dwellings above in simple classical style, of three storeys with a four window front. The front is roughcast with dentilled eaves below the graded slate roof, which has a central roughcast stack. Ground-floor openings were all boarded up at the time of inspection. The late 19th century shop front, formerly for two shops, has pilasters and fascia end brackets to the cornice, shop windows with slender mahogany mullions and classical details, above a polished granite stall riser. The recessed doorways have mosaic floors with lettering (Lake and Co Ltd) and panelled ceilings. The glazed doors, set diagonally, have `eye' shaped panels and segmental foliated pediments above. A further doorway is at the L end, with panelled door and traceried overlight. Windows in the middle and upper storeys have architraves, while two-storey vertical inscription panels are set back from the ends. In the middle storey are 6 over single-pane hornless sash windows, while the upper storey has shorter mainly nine-pane sash windows, but some have glazing bars removed. Two gabled dormers have lunettes with sinuous aprons, boarded up to the left, with partly surviving small-pane glazing to the right. (Listed Building description).

The rear is roughcast and retains some sash windows, with tall narrow stair lights to the outer sides. The ground falls sharply at the rear where there is a three-storey roughcast rear wing at basement level.

5.2 Results of the Archaeological Evaluation/Watching Brief

The archive is held by GAT under the project number **(G1955)**

The archaeological programme focused on the basement and lower basement levels of No. 23 Bridge Street (Figure 02).

5.2.1. Description of basement of No 23

The lower and upper basement levels had already been gutted prior to the evaluation. As a result it was possible to identify different building phases within the exposed elevations. The plan of the basement is shown in fig 4. A wall (301) approximately 2.5m high crosses the basement from east to west, parallel to and approximately 1m from the south gable wall (310). The function of this wall was not known, but within the space between it and the main gable wall lay a brick-built culvert (309). The wall and culvert are discussed further in section 6 below.

The principal elevations within this room will now be described.

- The west facing elevation: this elevation fronted the street, and, assuming the medieval bridge survived, it must have been built in front of or in place of the bridge abutments. It comprised the lower basement and basement levels (total height: 5.0m); a redundant delivery chute had been exposed during the initial renovation works but no other features were identified. Visibility was reduced as the elevation was supported by scaffolding. This also limited access to the eastern end of the lower basement floor surface.

- The south facing elevation: this elevation is on the shared wall between no's 23 and 25 Bridge Street. It comprised the lower basement and basement levels (total height: 5.0m). The lower basement elevation was 2.30m high and rendered. Built into the elevation were four buttress supports for the ceiling/upper basement floor (a brick wall partition was also attached but had been removed prior to GAT's arrival). A (possibly secondary) 0.60m wide entrance into the neighbouring room was also extant at the eastern end. The upper basement level in turn comprised

a number of features indicative of its varied uses as a commercial premises, including a blocked-up arch built from brick.

- The east facing elevation (at the rear of the property): this comprised the lower basement and basement levels (total height: 5.0m). The elevation was built from irregular sub-rounded and sub-angular stone with extensive modern repair/alteration work. This included a re-sized rear entrance that had been narrowed from *c.*1.20m to 0.60m and two narrow windows on the lower and upper basement levels respectively.
- The lower part of the north facing elevation of the south gable wall was hidden by the 2.5m high parallel wall that ran in front of it (feature 301 on fig 5; plates 7-10). The void between the two walls contained a brick built culvert, and was also backfilled with rubble and earth. The drain measured 0.70m in width and ran the length of the room, from the direction of Bridge Street, into the courtyard at the rear of the building (Figure 04). The elevation of this wall had been rendered in the same style as the south facing elevation. Due to the extent of rendering (which was not going to be removed during the renovation work), it was not possible to discern any patterns of structural phasing, though at the west end there was an indentation that might represent a blocked doorway. At approximately the centre of the wall, 3.5m from the east end, was an indent that was thought to mark the location of a return wall running north (plate 09). Excavation revealed the fragmentary remains of a wall here (feature 202 on fig 05) but it had been badly truncated, and could not be traced for much more than a metre. The west part of the upstanding wall (201) had been faced with a modern brick wall, which was removed during the current works, exposing the wall face which comprised irregular sub-rounded and sub-angular igneous stone.

- The south gable wall of No 23, which it shared with No 21, was only visible above a height of 2.5m. This wall was divided into two phases by a vertical straight joint 2.5m from the west end. The most likely interpretation is that the longer, eastern, length formed the original width of no. 21, and that it was extended when no. 23 was rebuilt to a greater width. No. 21 was also partly rebuilt, taking advantage of the greater width now available. This interpretation is further examined in the conclusions below.

5.2.2 Excavation results

Prior to the evaluation stage, the modern tile and concrete floor surface of the lower basement level had been removed, exposing a post-medieval buried soil horizon, identified as either a former garden plot or a levelling deposit. Two trial trenches were inserted through this deposit in an attempt to identify any earlier activity: Trench 01 was opened along the south facing elevation of the lower basement level (see Figure 04); Trench 02 along the north facing elevation (see Figure 04). The area incorporating Trench 02 included structural remains and the associated elevation appeared to include a former stone-built wall return that had been truncated (the elevation had been rendered making further interpretation difficult). The structural remains within Trench 02 appeared to show this return continuing northwards at foundation level. It was thought that this return would also be evident on Trench 01.

The construction requirements for the lower basement level included reducing the existing floor surface by 0.35m and cutting a service duct through the centre of the room (depth: 0.50m).

A photographic record of the room was conducted prior to works and subsequently maintained throughout GAT's presence. The north facing elevation was also drawn to scale (Figure 03) and a detailed plan of the room was drawn to scale (Figure 05).

Trench 01
Size: 2.00m x 1.00m 0.75m (l x w x d)

Trench 01was located along the south facing elevation of the lower basement level (Plate 01). As with Trench 02, the trench was positioned to investigate a potential wall, partly visible at foundation level in Trench 02 and as a 'stub' in the north facing elevation (Figure 03). Within Trench 01, below the twentieth century floor surface/foundation level, was a sandy mortar levelling layer, 0.10m thick (also identified in Trench 02). Beneath this deposit were two layers of compacted clay-silt (0.20m and 0.35m thick respectively), akin to garden soils and differentiated by their respective colours (light and dark brown) and the quantity of fragmented material (domestic rubbish). Below these deposits was a demolition/levelling layer of apparent nineteenth century building waste, which included fragments of

slate, coal, brick, bottle glass, as well as a cobblestone (see Plate 02). The trench was stopped at 0.75m below ground level as this was well below the projected maximum construction depth. It appeared that this trench was restricted to nineteenth/twentieth century activity, specifically landscaping/levelling. There was no evidence for medieval activity within the trench. It was thought that the possible return wall visible in Trench 02 had been truncated and removed and replaced by the landscaping/levelling material.

Trench 02
Size: 3.00m x 1.80m 0.50m (l x w x d)

Trench 02 was located within the same room as Trench 01 (Figure 04), 0.40m to the south, along the north facing elevation of the cross-wall (301) (see Plate 03). It was positioned to investigate the remains of an apparent return wall (context 202) visible in the elevation both as a redundant stub and in plan as a truncated foundation course (Figure 05).

Beneath the modern floor surface/foundation level were the truncated remains of two slate-lined culverts, both orientated east-west and located at the eastern and western ends of the trench respectively, with a slate-lined sump in the centre (201 and 203 on fig. 04). It appeared that the eastern culvert fed into the sump, whilst the overflow fed into the second culvert at the western end of the trench (the watching brief exposed the remains of both culverts; see para. 5.2.2. below). The sump had been built against the foundation course of the return wall, utilising stone fragments to reinforce one side (Figure 05). The culvert on the western side partly covered the foundation course. It appeared that the foundation course had been truncated: it was extant within the trench for a length of *c.*1.00m and was visible to a depth of 0.30m. The northern end of the foundation course had been removed and the area backfilled, suggesting this structure was disturbed and partly removed during the landscaping/levelling of the area and the construction of the slate-lined culvert. The slate-lined culvert on the western end of the trench used the foundation course as underlying support. A small sub-circular cut was identified at the western end of the trench: 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep; it's function and date were unclear, though it may have been a foundation cut for the return wall. No other features were identified within the confines of the trench.

The two trenches revealed evidence of post-medieval landscaping/levelling and drainage work. The foundation wall in Trench 02 was severely truncated and did not continue into Trench 01 so it's full extent could not be determined. No artefactual data was forthcoming to suggest a provenance for the structure.

5.2.3 Results of the Archaeological Watching Brief

The watching brief was conducted after the evaluation phase, and monitored the reduction of the ground surface in the lower basement level by the construction team. Whilst Trench 01 implied that the northern end of the room comprised post-medieval landscaping/levelling deposits (at least to a depth lower than that affected by the renovation work), particular attention was paid to the area surrounding Trench 02 and the eastern end of the room. Trench 02 contained a truncated return wall and redundant slate-lined culverts and the reduction of the ground surface was seen as an opportunity to explore these features further.

A photographic record was maintained throughout GAT's presence.

Slate-lined culverts

The reduction of the post-medieval ground surface exposed the full extent of the slate-lined culverts identified in Trench 02. The culvert (201) to the west of the sump (203) in Trench 02, continued for a further 2.80m to the rear of the room, where it had been truncated by later building work (Plate 16). To the east of the sump, the slate-lined culvert (206) continued eastwards along the north-facing elevation for a length of 1.70m, after which it turned northwards (Plate 15), running along the west facing elevation for 3.50m, exiting the room below the south facing elevation (after which it was truncated by later building work). The culverts were cut into the landscaping/levelling deposit identified in Trench 02.

Medieval walling

Located to the east of Trenches 01 and 02, below the slate-lined culvert and the clay-rich landscaping/levelling deposit, were the remains of a stone facing and rubble core (306). The facing was 3.5m long, and 0.5m wide, and was constructed from irregular sub angular blocks of yellow sandstone with a clay mortar bond forming an east-west aligned wall. The structure appeared to continue below the south wall of the room, but had been disturbed at the north end, so it was not clear if it had once continued through under the north wall. There was no evidence for it in the room to the north, but the floor levels here were lower, so it would have been destroyed had it continued into there (Figure 05). The stones appeared to be dressed on the west-facing side (Plate 13), suggesting this to be the outer face of the structure. Butted against the opposite, non-dressed side of the structure, was a closely packed deposit of sub-rounded stone, which was interpreted as a rubble core (Plate 14). The rubble core continued towards and under the east wall of the house.

A narrow evaluation trench was opened: 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep, running westwards from the wall. The evaluation trench revealed that the structure was at least four courses high. The lowest course appeared to protrude further than the other courses, suggesting it may have been part of the foundation. The evaluation trench was not extended deeper. A narrow foundation cut was tentatively identified running parallel to the wall (Figure 03), but the evaluation trench was too narrow to facilitate further interpretation. Above this foundation cut were two levelling/landscaping deposits, both of which contained post-medieval building fragments. These two deposits were also found in Trench 01.

Cross-wall (301)

The north-facing elevation of this wall was largely rendered, making it difficult to identify any structural phasing. Holes within the render towards the western end of the elevation, however, suggested it was built from igneous stone.

The reduction of the ground surface at the east end of this elevation revealed that it was built over the medieval wall and was not a contemporary structure. The foundation course was built from irregular igneous stone blocks with occasional sandstone blocks (see Plate 08).

Below this elevation was a short course of sandstone blocks (305), which ran between the medieval wall (306) and the truncated return wall (202) (see Figure 05 for the location of these structures and Plate 14). This short course of sandstone blocks appeared to butt the sandstone wall (306).

The provenance of the sandstone course that butted the medieval wall was unclear: the material used was similar to that for the medieval structure, but its alignment was at the wrong angle to be a return, suggesting it was not contemporary. The subsequent return in Trench 02 was built mainly from igneous rock rather than sandstone, suggesting it too was a later addition, which was itself truncated by the construction of the slate-lined sump and culverts. Overall, there were at least four building phases:

(i) The medieval stonework (context 306)
(ii) The sandstone built course that butted the medieval wall (context 305).
(iii) The igneous stone-built foundation that butted (b) (context 202), perhaps contemporary also with the cross-wall (301), and the east part of the gable wall (310).
(iv) The principal house walls (311), and perhaps the later drains (201, 203, 206).

The brick-built culvert (309) is thought to be contemporary with or slightly later than phase iii.

Ground Surface

A 0.40m wide pipe trench was excavated across the centre of the room to a depth of 0.50m after the ground surface had been removed to a suitable depth. Two distinct deposits were identified: 0.20m of clay-rich silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone; 0.30m of dark brown stone-rich clay-silt with inclusions of fragmented slate. The latter indicates that these deposits are post-medieval in date, as also suggested by the deposits in Trench 01. It appeared that the lower basement level was created during this period. It was not possible to suggest any temporal differences between the two layers of soil: they both contained evidence of post-medieval activity.

6 INTERPRETATION

The earliest feature on the site is the medieval wall-facing (306). This is parallel to, and very close to, the line of the medieval bridge. It may form the remains of the west side of the bridge, if this was taken down when the houses were built in the late 18th/early 19th century. This would explain the solid construction, and lack of an eastern face. The bridge causeway is described as being of earth, though it might have been faced with stone at a later date. Alternatively 306 could have formed part of a structure which lay close to the causewayed bridge.

The function of the stone structure (305) is unknown. It butted up against the medieval walling (306), and consisted of a 4.00m long face of sandstone walling. It is sealed by the cross-wall (301), which is thought to be late 18th/early 19th century (see below). A mill is shown in this approximate location on a mid-18th century map, and this may be part of the leat which fed water to the mill. A mill is not shown here on Speed's map, so it was presumably built after 1610 and before 1750. Speed shows three channels exiting from the bridge, of which the north and south channels appear to drive mills. Three channels are also shown on the mid-18th century map, but only the central channel is used to drive a mill. The central channel is located on, or close to, the present boundary wall of 21/23 High Street. Wood's map of 1834 shows a gap between the two buildings here, with an arm of the mill pond pointing towards the gap, implying the existence of a culvert. It is reasonable to suggest that the gap and culvert lie on the same alignment as the mill leat shown on the 18th century map. It is also possible that the building shown on Wood's map below the bridge is the (then redundant) mill building.

If this is the case, then the east half of the cross-wall (301) – as far as the return wall (203) – is likely to represent the gable wall of the building shown on Wood's map. The west part of wall (301) was probably built later, as it is not shown on Wood's map. The large brick culvert (309) that runs between the cross-wall and present gable wall of no. 23 is, therefore, likely to be the culvert implied on Wood's map. This culvert could have been built to replace the mill leat when the mill went out of use.

In the later 19th century no. 23 Bridge Street was rebuilt against no. 21, thus removing the gap shown on Wood's map, but the gable end of the earlier building was left *in situ* to protect the culvert, and this is now represented by the eastern part of the cross-wall (301). It might have been at this point that the west part of wall (301) was built, or earlier when the culvert was constructed. The new no. 23 was built wider to the west than no. 21, and so the gable wall of no. 21 was at that point extended to the west, and this division is marked by the vertical joint visible on the dividing wall of no's 21/23 Bridge Street. It is thought that this rebuilding took place c. 1890, which is the date suggested by the style of the shop front.

The slate-lined drains and sump (201, 203, 206) were, stratigraphically, the latest features on the site, and are thought to post-date the construction of no. 23 Bridge Street in the late 19th century, and were in contemporary use with that building.

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Appendix I
Context Register

Context Number	Site Sub	Description	Comments
101	T1	Modern levelling deposit	20th century
102	T1	Compact clay-silt	Below 101; 19th century
103	T1	Stone-rich clay-silt	Below 102; 19th century
104	T1	Demolition/levelling layer; comprising slate and stone fragments, cobblestone, coal, brick and green bottle glass sherds	Below 103; 19th century
201	T2	Slate-lined culvert; feeds from sump 203; associated with culvert 206; uses 202 as support	19th century
202	T2	Igneous stone built structure; extant at foundation level; exact provenance unknown but thought to represent earlier structural phase of 23 Bridge Street	
203	T2	Slate-lined sump; fed by 206; feeds into 201	19th century
204	T2	Shallow cut; provenance unknown	
205	T2	Possible foundation cut for 202	
206	T2	Slate-lined culvert; feeds into sump 203; associated with culvert 201	19th century
207	T2	Possible foundation cut for 201	19th century
301	Lower basement level	Northeast facing elevation within lower basement level	19th century?
302	Lower basement level	Remnant of brick-built partition wall attached to 301; partly removed prior to arrival	20th century
303	Lower basement level	Possible remnant of former wall return; incorporated into 301 as a rendered stub; extant at foundation level as 202	19th century?
304	Lower basement level	Foundation level of 301	19th century?
305	Lower basement level	Sandstone built course below 304; exact provenance unclear but thought to represent an earlier structural phase of 23 Bridge Street (as does 202 and possibly 303)	
306	Lower basement level	Medieval structure; either part of former grist mill or bridge abutment; sandstone built with clay bonding	
307	Lower basement level	Rubble core of 306; continues below east facing elevation of 23 Bridge Street	
308	Lower basement level	East facing elevation of 23 Bridge Street; overlies 307	19th century
309	Lower basement level	Brick-built culvert located in void between 301 and 310	19th century

310	Basement level	Northeast facing elevation of 21 Bridge Street that forms part of 23 Bridge Street basement level; separated form lower basement level (301) by a void	19th century?
311	Basement level	Extension to 310.	19th century

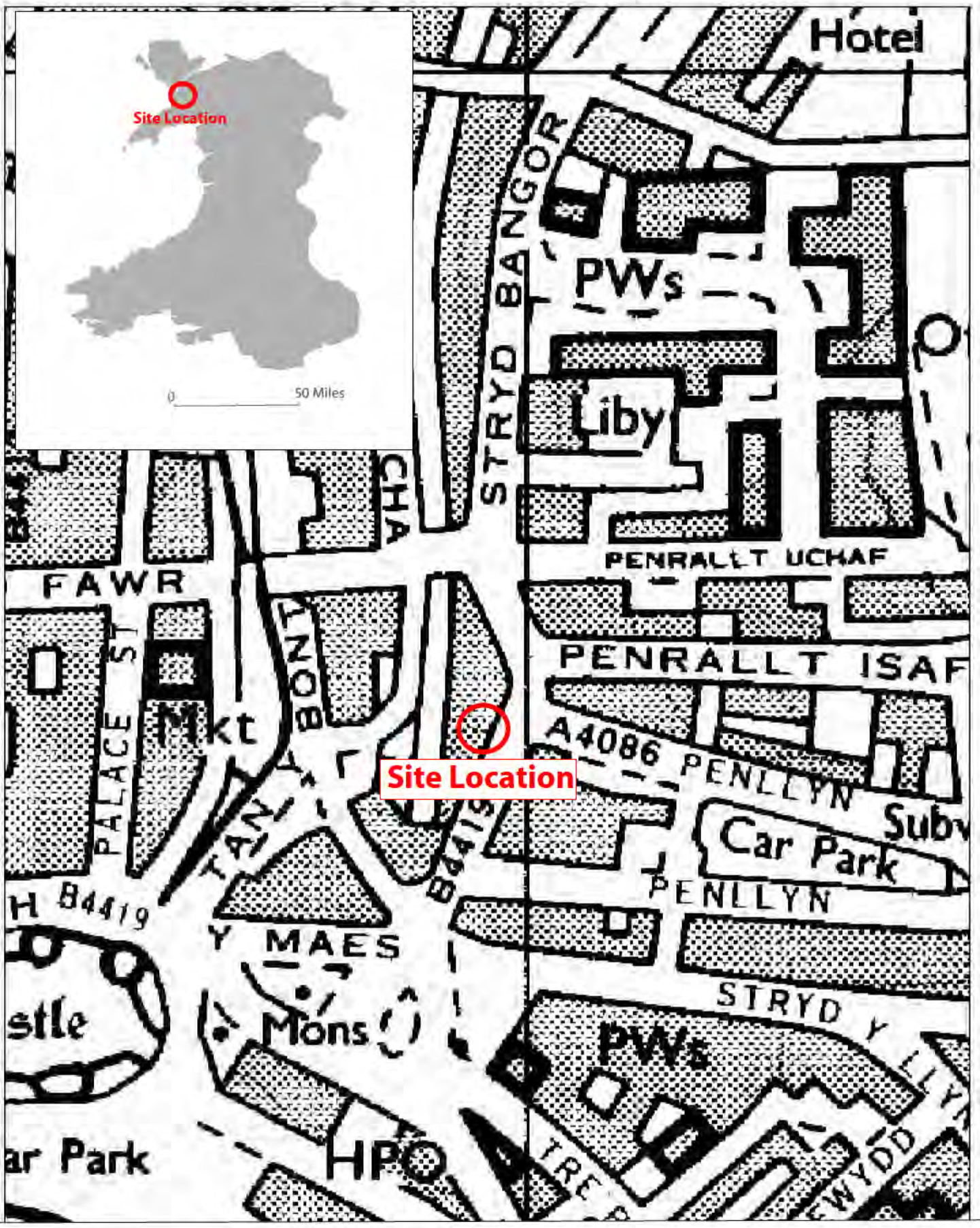

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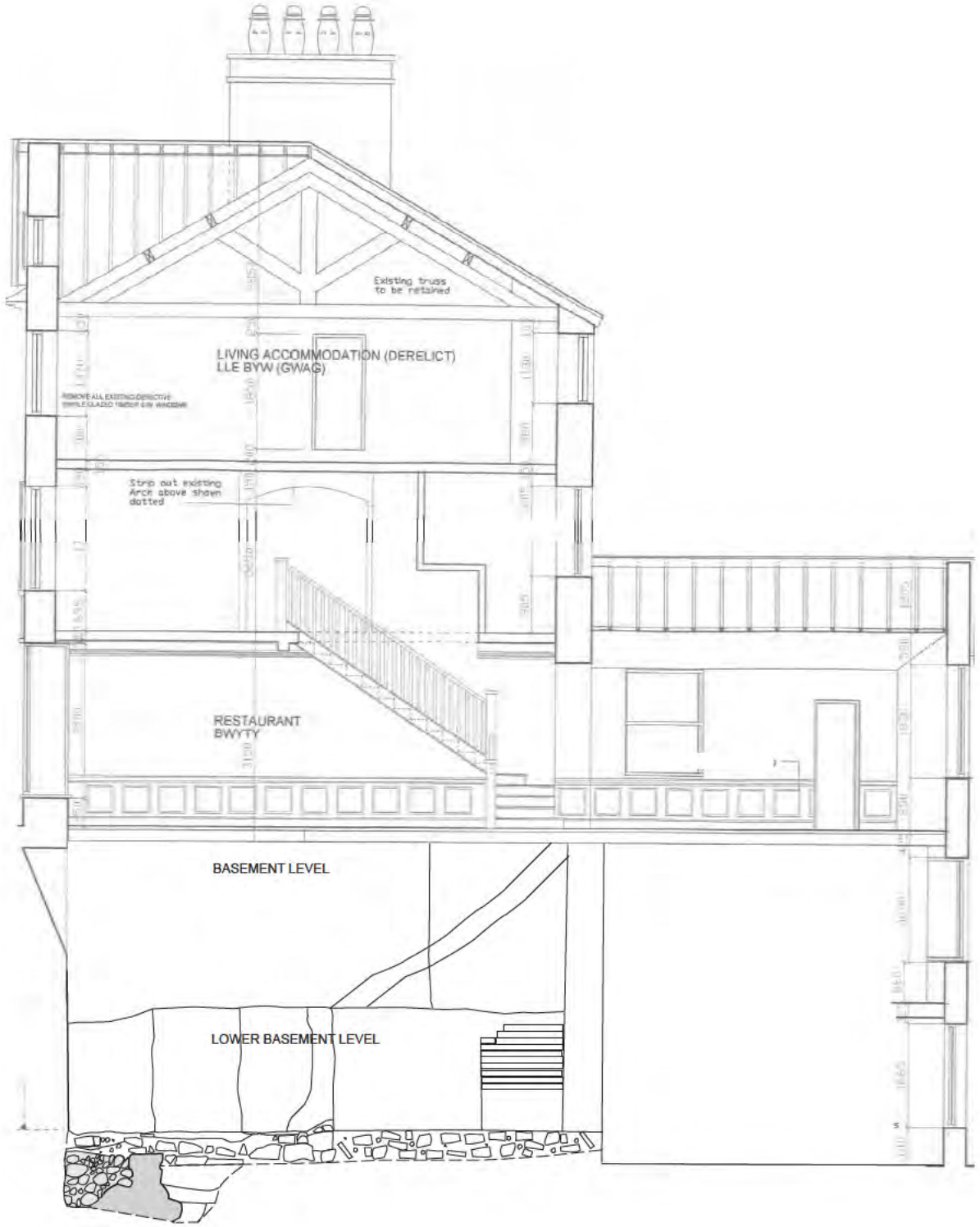
Figure 1: Location Map

Scale: 1:1250@A4



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This figure details the full extent of 23 Bridge Street and includes the watching brief and evaluation areas at the Basement and Lower Basement Levels
NB. For specific information detailing the features within the Basement and Lower Basement Levels, cf. Figures 03 to 05

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Figure 02: North Facing Elevation of 23 Bridge Street. Based on Site Drawing 2812/04
Scale: 1:100

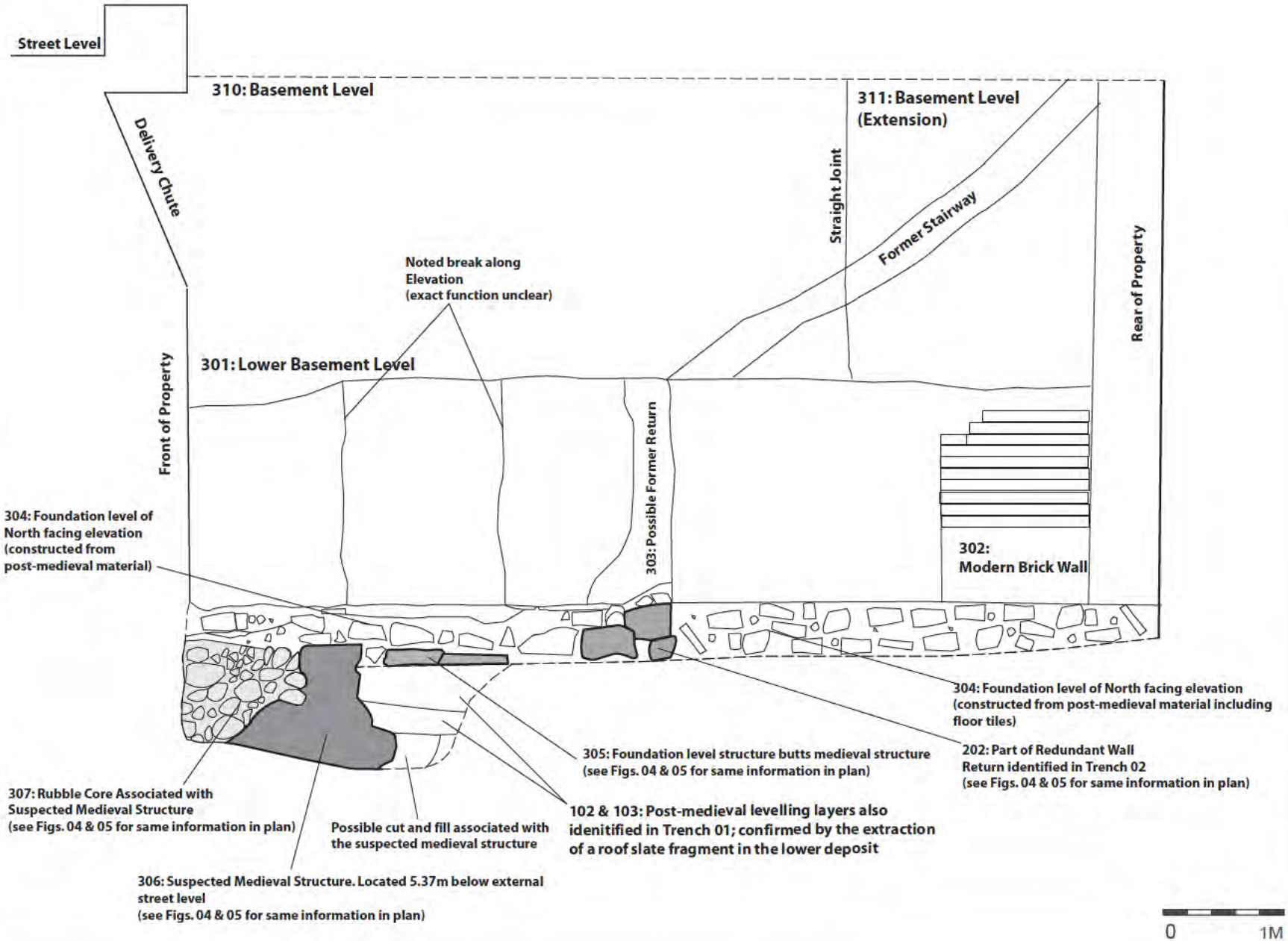

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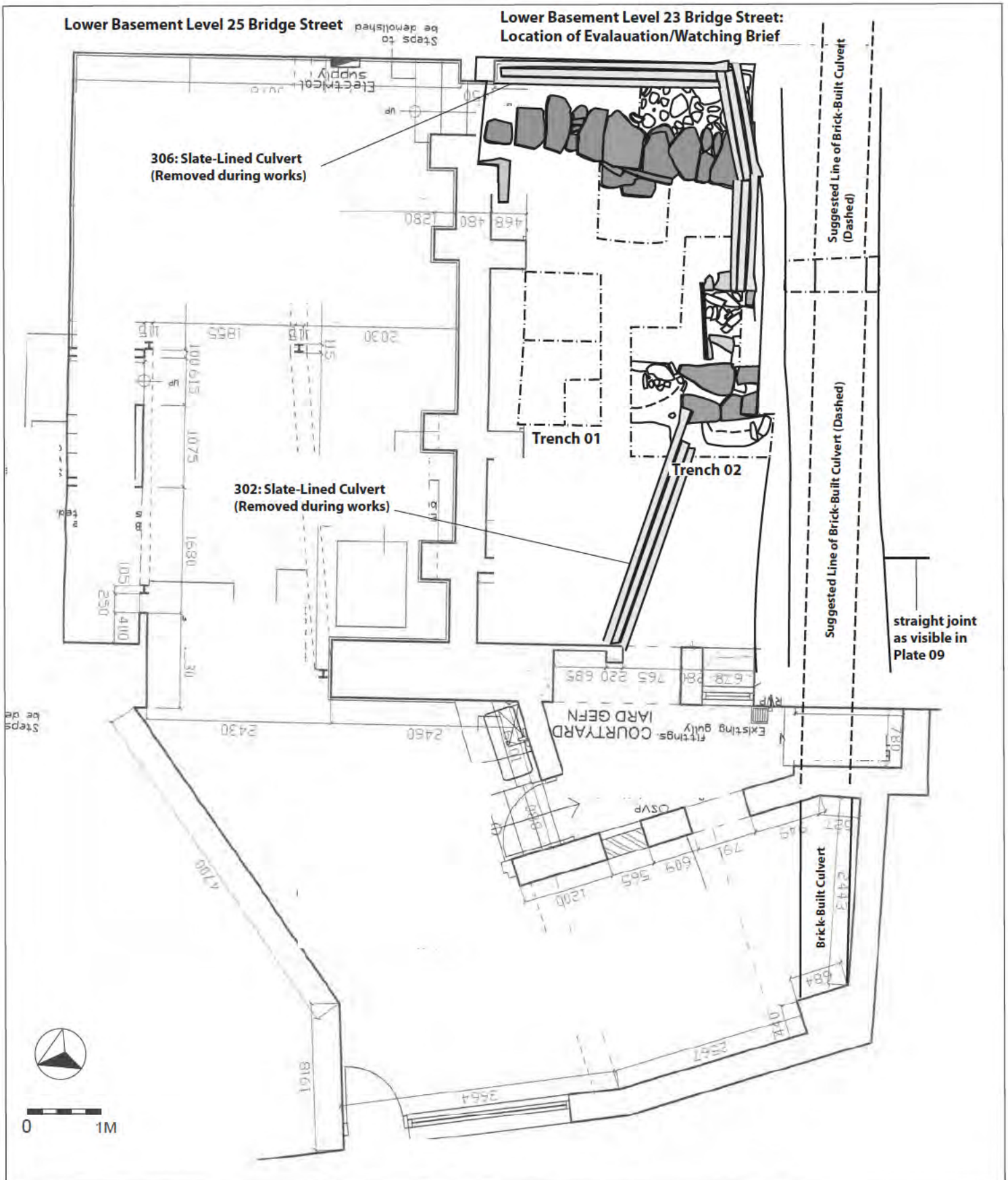
Figure 03: Basement/Lower Basement Level Detail



For further information within the Evaluatiion/Watching Brief Area, cf. Figure 05

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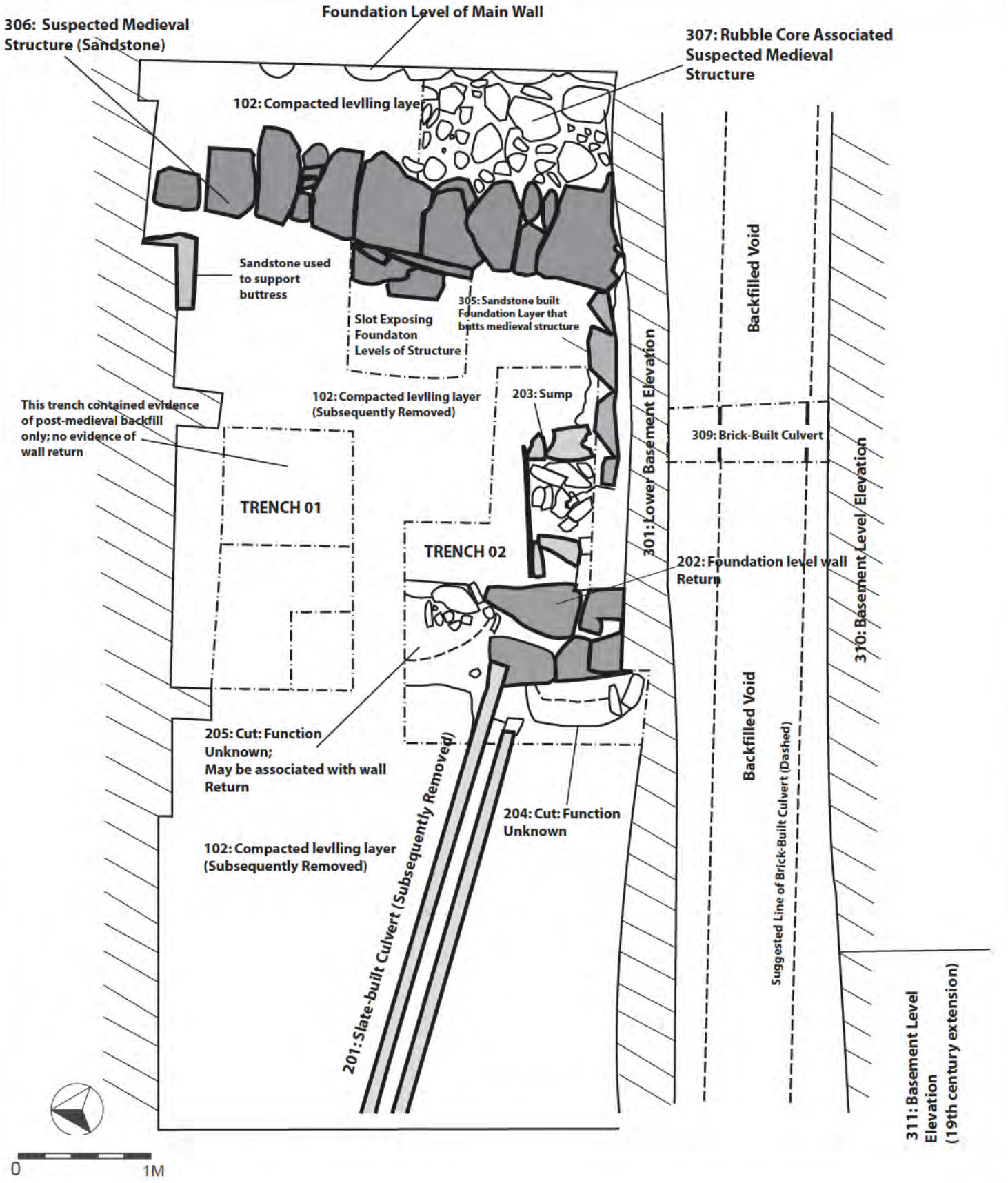
Figure 04: Lower Basement Level Plan of 22 & 23 Bridge Street Not to Scale. Based on Site Drawing Supplied by Client



N.B.: This Figure includes all identified features from the evaluation/watching brief. No activity bar post-medieval levelling was identified in Trench 01; the full extent of the "wall return" in Trench 02 was not identified as it appeared to have been damaged by the construction of the slate-lined culvert. The slate-lined culvert also continued to the east of the sump, across and along the area incorporating the suspected medieval structure, but this has not been included in this figure so as not to disguise the medieval structure. The main structural features have been highlighted for reference

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Figure 05: Detail of Lower Basement Level Plan of 22 & 23 Bridge Street Not to Scale

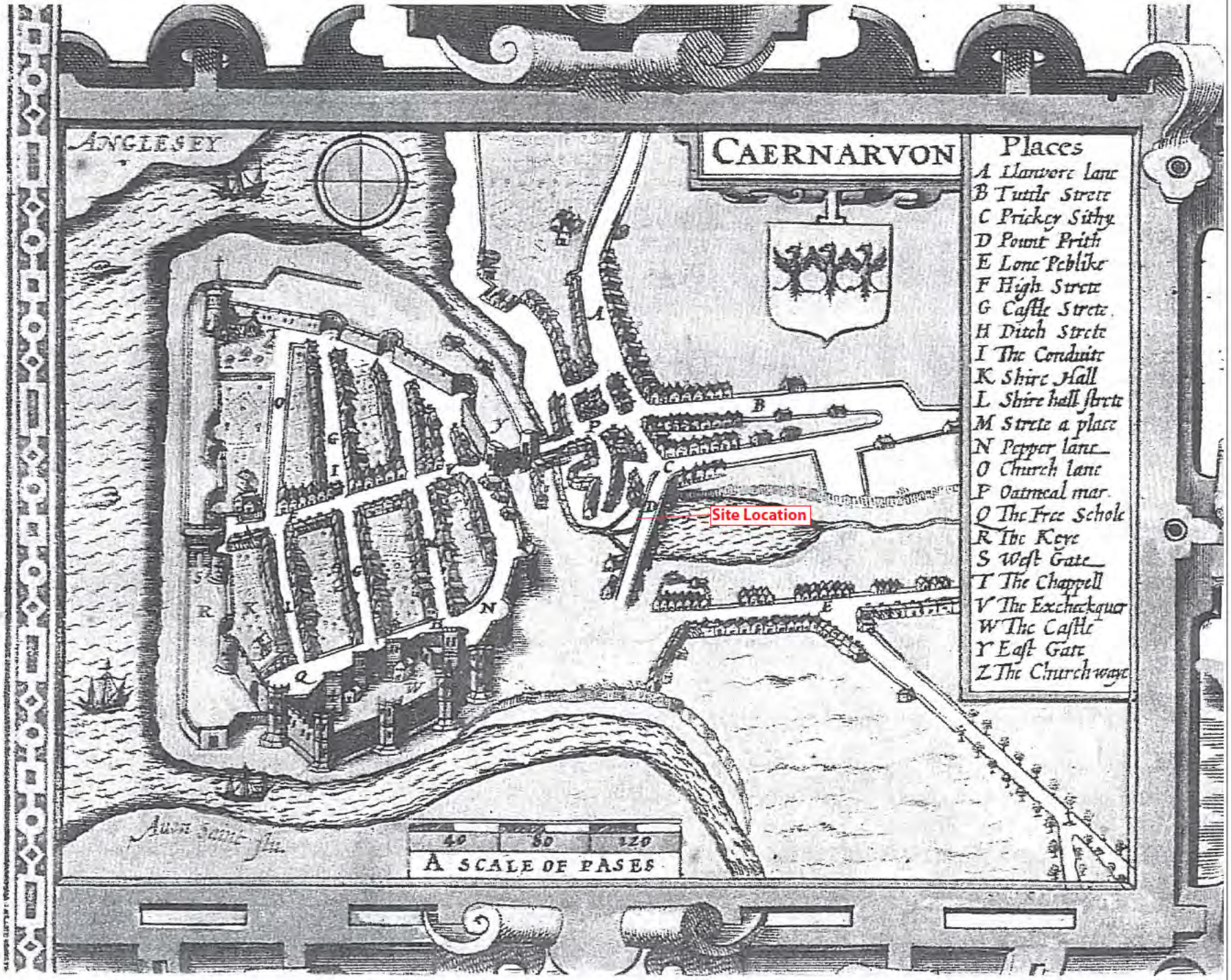

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Figure 06: John Speed's Map of Caernarfonshire 1610
Scale: NOT TO SCALE

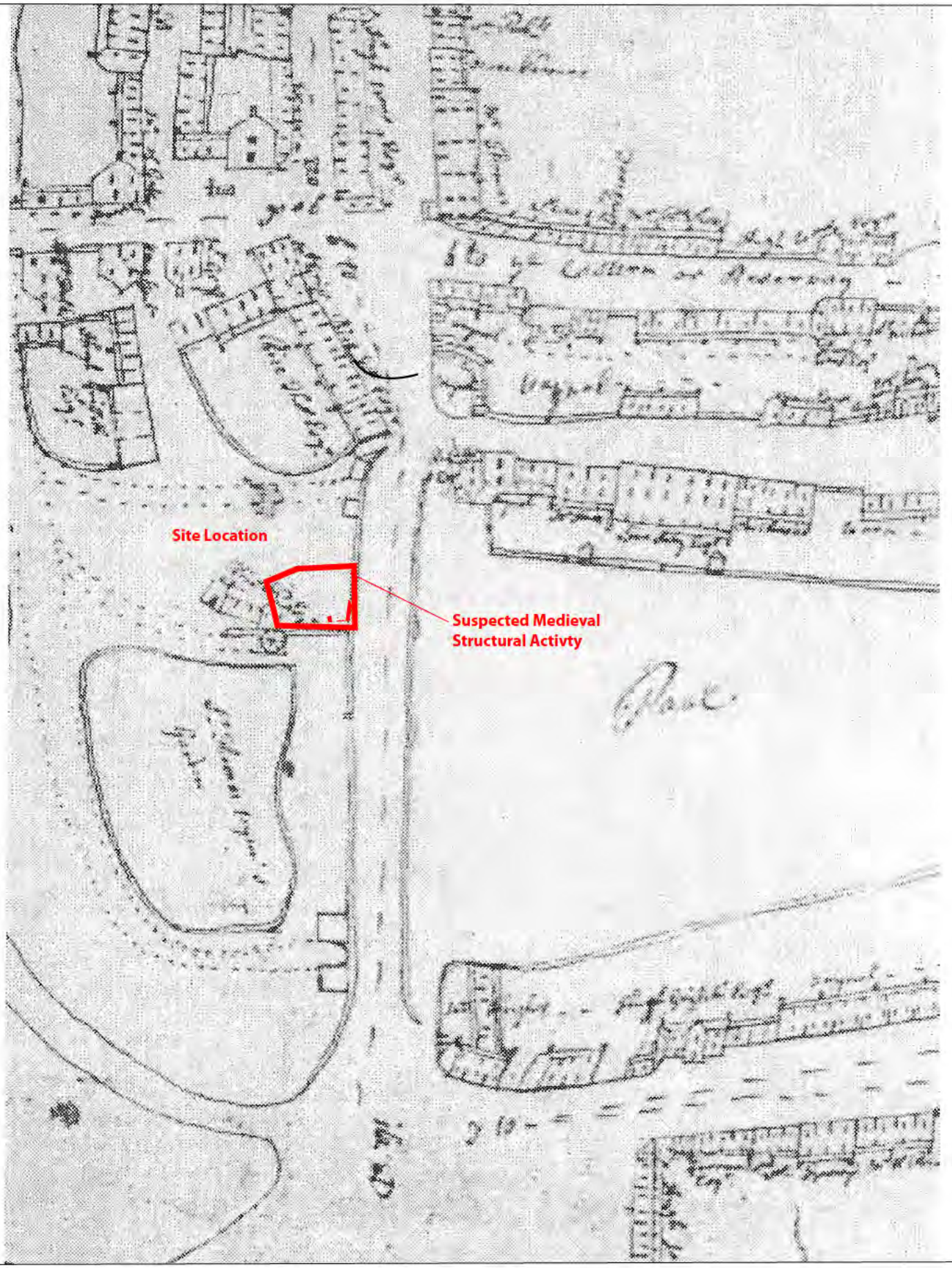

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Figure 07: GAS XM/Maps/1396 (nd.) Llanfair and Brynodol MSS Map of Caernarfon

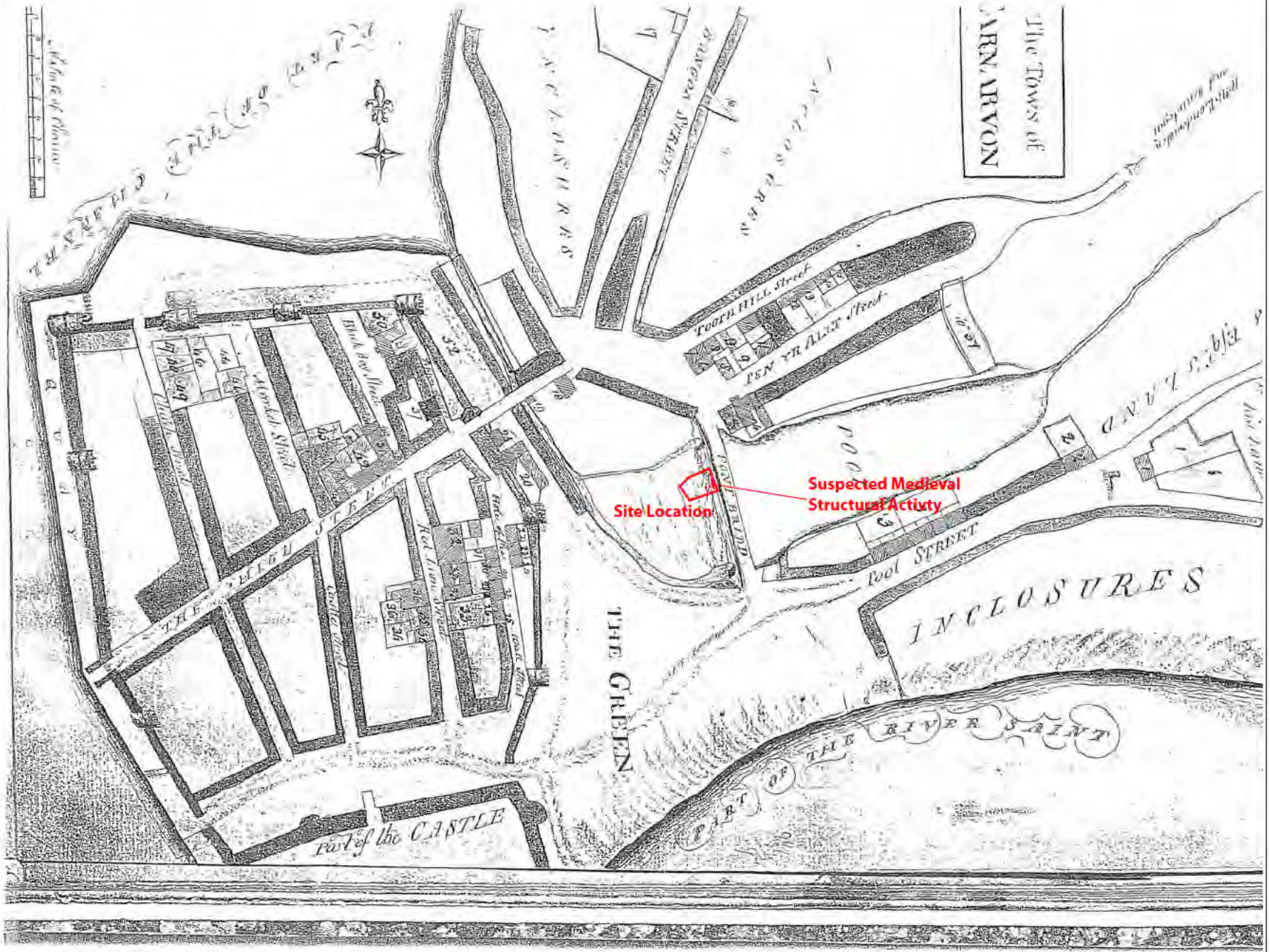

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Figure 08: UCNW Vaynol MSS Map of Caernarfon 1777
Scale: NOT TO SCALE

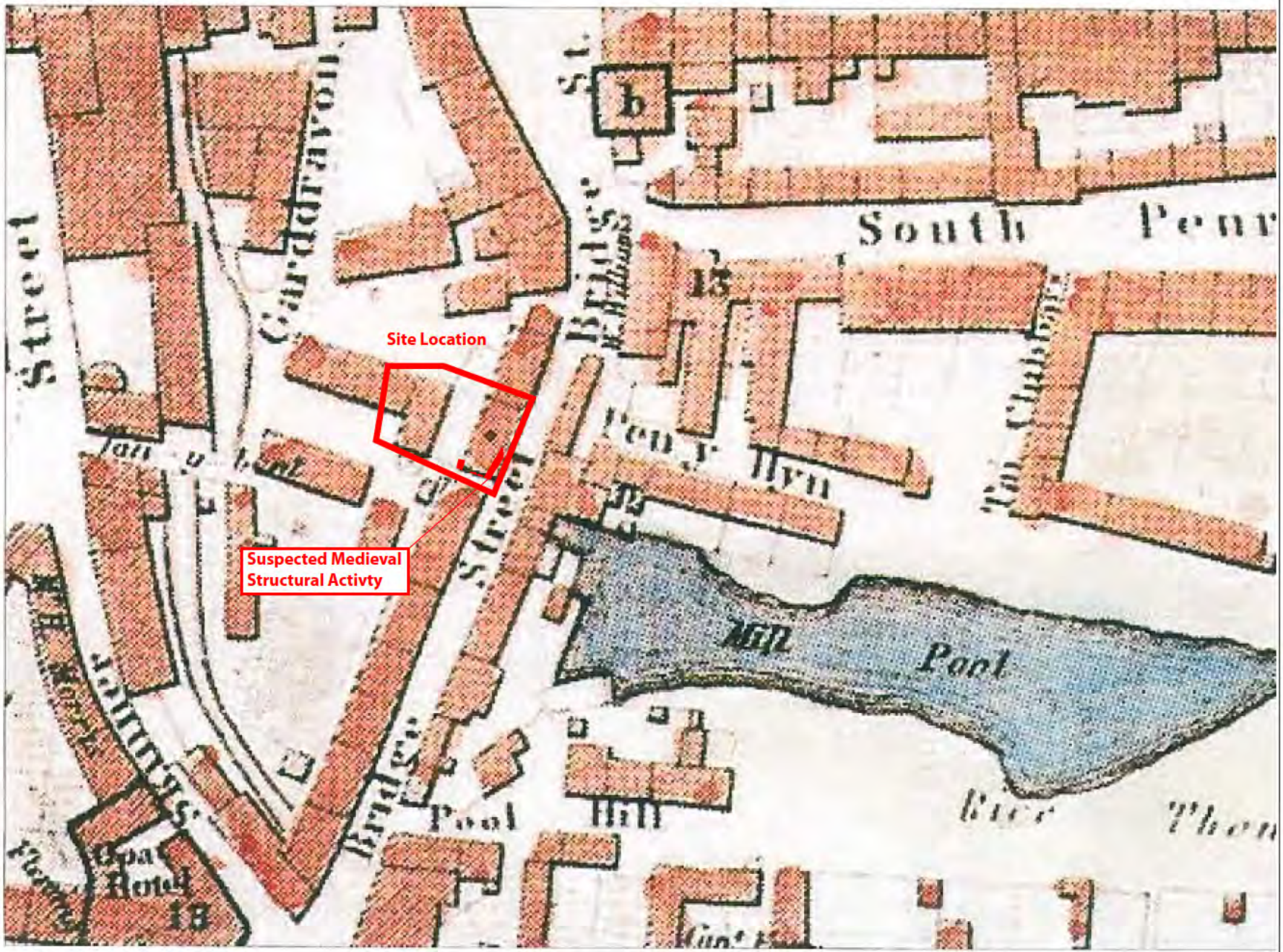

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Figure 09: John Wood's Town map of Caernarfon 1834
Scale: NOT TO SCALE

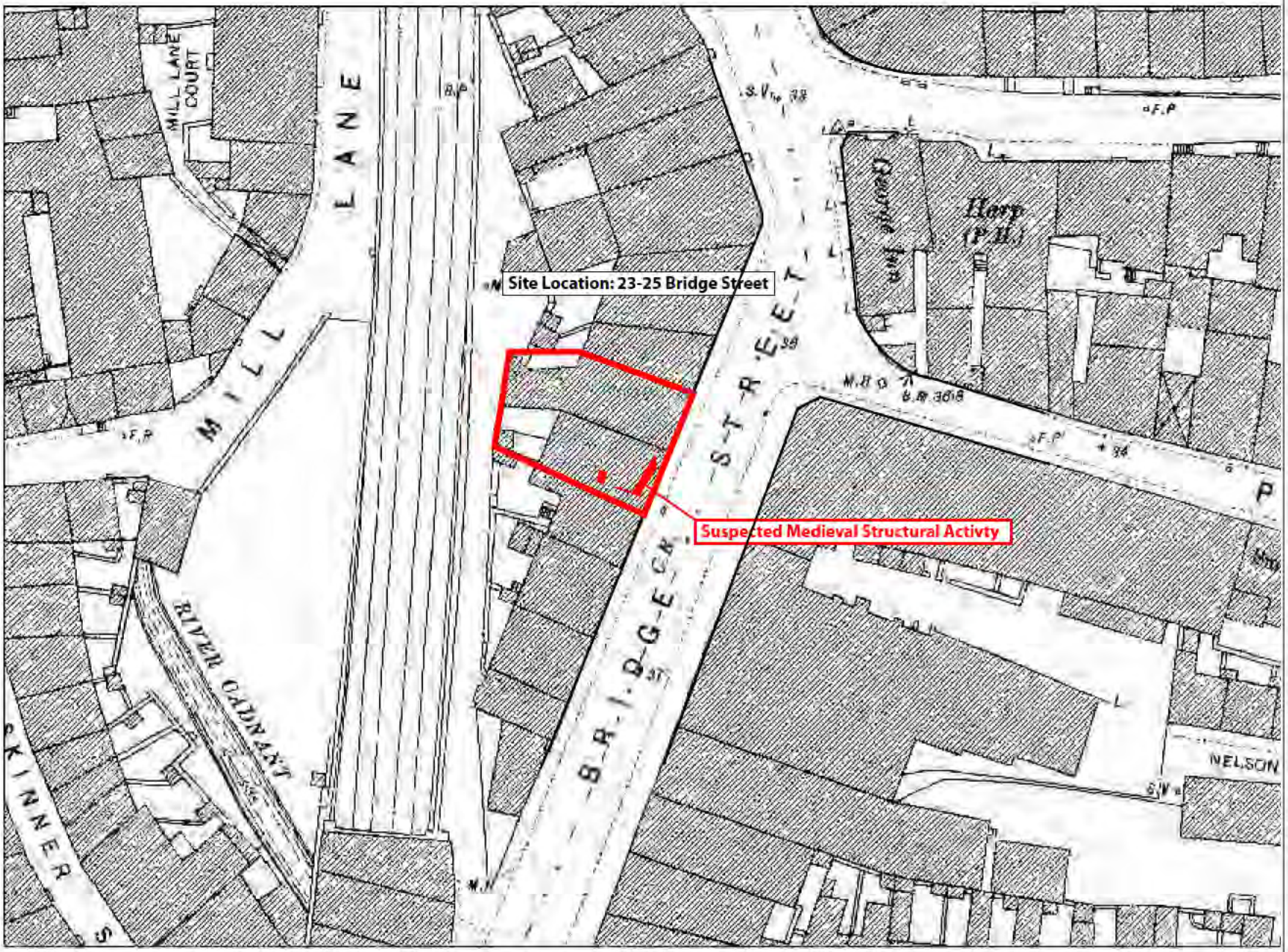

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Figure 10: OS 1:500 Scale Town Plan 1889

Plate 01: Trenches 01 and 02 during intial evaluation work. The tenches have been cut into a post-medieval levelling deposit

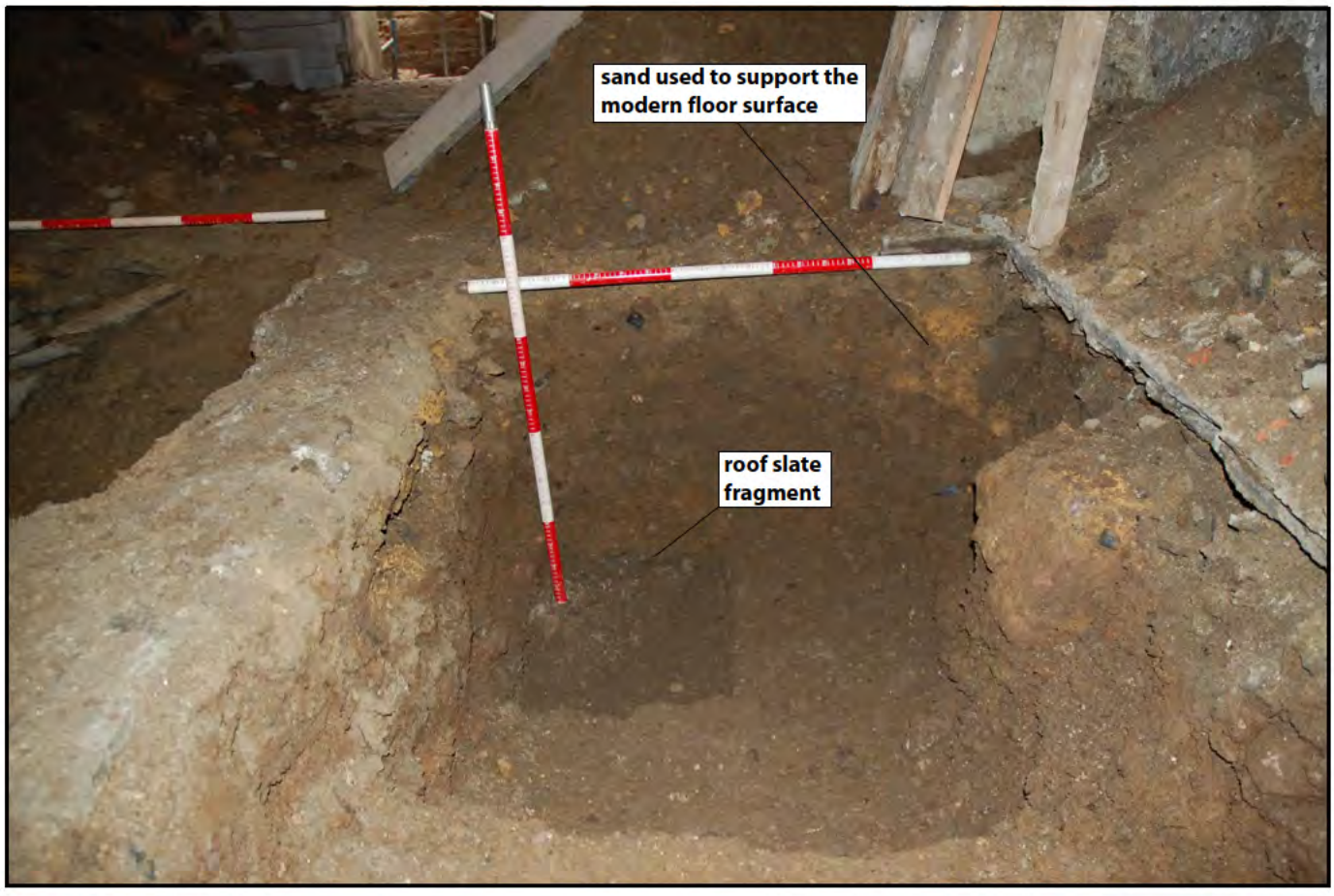

Plate 02: East facing section within Trench 01 detailing stratigraphy, which comprised post-medieval levelling deposits. The trench was dug to a depth of 0.75m, twice the depth of the groundworks. Note the roof slate fragment near the base and the modern sand used to support the modern floor surface.

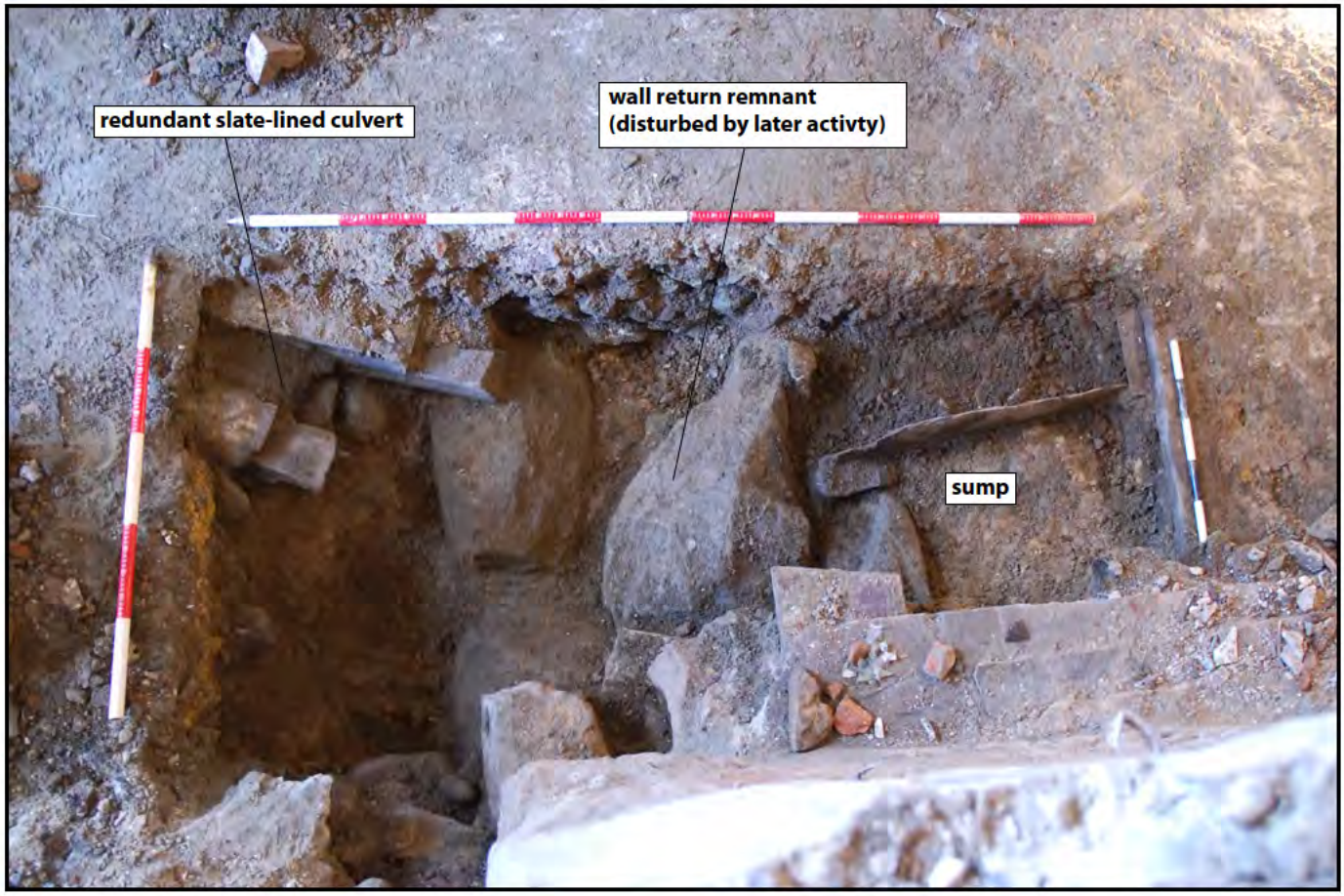

Plate 03: Overhead image of Trench 02, detailing redundant slate-lined culvert, associated sump and wall return remnant

Plate 04: Second overhead image of Trench 02 after excavation completed. Attempt was made to identify full extent of wall return, but no other activity was forthcoming, suggesting it was truncated by later activity. The yellow sand within image relates to a modern phase of levelling

Plate 05: View from northwest of Trench 02 and North-facing elevation. Cf. Plate 04 for overhead shot

Plate 06: Close-up of former location of wall return, backfilled with post-medieval levelling material, including modern sand, slate and brick fragments

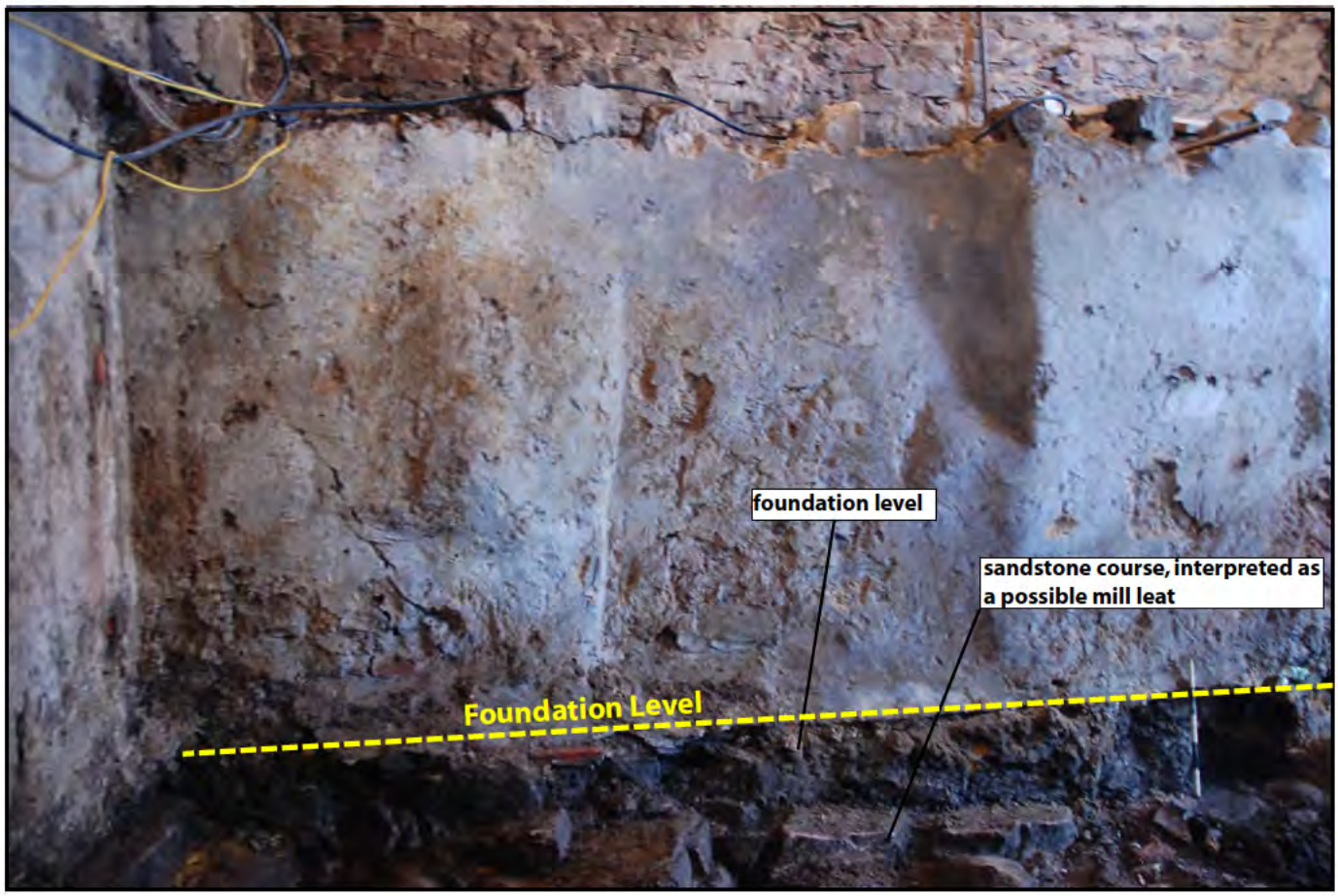

Plate 07: North-facing elevation/east end at Lower Basement Level, detailing construction/foundation level (including a separate sandstone course).

Plate 08: South-facing elevation/west end at Lower Basement Level, detailing construction/foundation level at final excavtion level required by groundworks team. Note modern brick wall and original build material where render has been removed. A quarry tile can be seen at bottom left of screen, which could suggest this section of wall was built or repaired during nineteenth/ twentieth century

Plate 09: North-facing elevation at Lower Basement Level & Basement level. Note blocked window on basement level and vertical joint in masonry (straight joint)

Plate 10: Basement level, detailing east-facing elevation and "void" separating north-facing elevations for lower basement level and basement level respectively. A brick-built culvert was located within the void

Plate 11: South facing elevation at Lower Basement Level. Final excavation level for groundworks team detailing building technology used. Note use of sandstone blocks at foundation to support buttresses. Similar stones identified along north-facing elevation. In this instance, they appear to have been reused

Plate 12: South facing elevation at Basement Level

Plate 13: Detail of suspected medieval structure, identified at foundation level and sealed by post-medieval levelling material. Note the blockwork is dressed, with an internal rubble core. A slot was dug to investigate this feature further

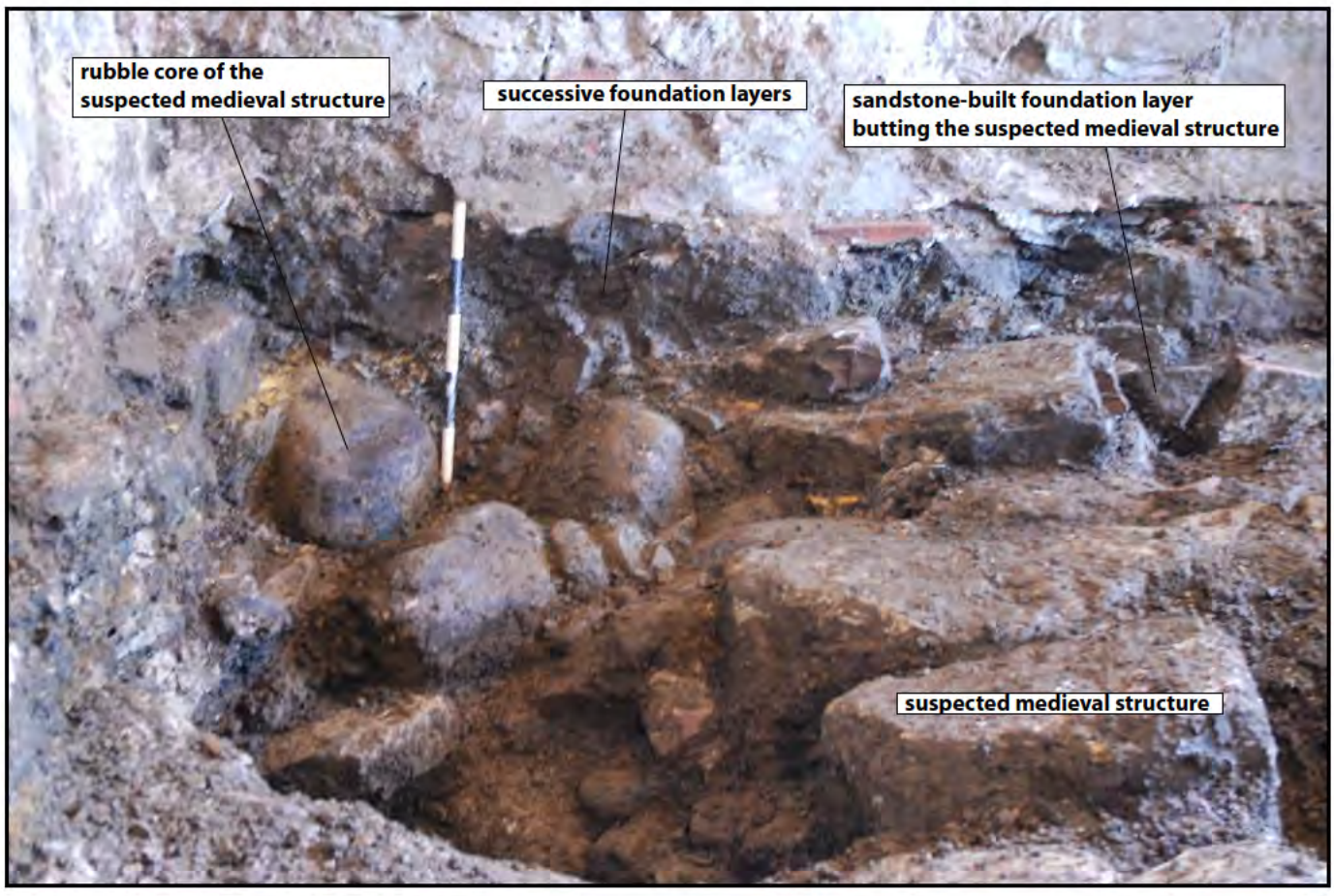

Plate 14: Detailed vierw of north-facing elevation/east end, focussing on the rubble core of the suspected medieval structure and successive foundation layers. A sandstone-built foundation layer was identified butting the suspected medieval structure; exact function was unclear

Plate 15: Watching Brief Phase: Slate-lined culvert. The culvert fed into the sump identified in Trench 02 (cf. Plates 02 to 04). The culvert was removed during groundworks, exposing post-medieval levelling material, below which was th e suspected medieval structure (Plates 13 and 14; Figures 04 and 05)

Plate 16: Watching Brief Phase: Slate-lined culvert, which fed from the sump identified in Trench 02 (cf. Platees 02 to 04). The culvert was removed during groundwor. The yellow sand was part of the levelling material for the modern floor surface (removed)

Plate 17: Brick-Built culvert, exposed during work in the rear "courtyard".

Plate 18: Brick-Built culvert, exposed during work in the rear "courtyard" during subsequent breach

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